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Security Council

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Letter dated 17 September 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the joint letter addressed to me by the signatories to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement dated 17 July 2010 (see annex). In addition to the technical and logistical assistance mandated by the Security Council, the two parties have requested the United Nations to establish a monitoring mission to increase confidence in the upcoming referendum processes. This is in line with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which provides for international monitoring of the referendum processes.

In this regard, I wish to inform the Council of my decision to establish a three-member panel to monitor and assess the referendum processes for Southern Sudan and the Abyei area, including the political and security situation on the ground. The panel will also engage the parties at the appropriate level to take corrective measures and, in close consultation with me, issue public statements on the referendums.

The panel will be supported by field reporting officers, their coordinators and other liaison officers located in Northern and Southern Sudan. It will be distinct from the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and will report to me through the Department of Political Affairs.

I wish to inform you of the appointment of Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to head the panel. The other members of the panel will be Antonio Monteiro, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and Bhojraj Pokharel, former Chair of the Election Commission of Nepal.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

10-54675 (E) 220910

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Annex

Letter dated 17 July from the signatories to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement addressed to the Secretary-General

Subject: United Nations role in the Southern Sudan referendum

We would like to register our profound appreciation of the role of the United Nations in supporting the Sudanese people and the Parties to the CPA to fully implement the CPA. As Your Excellency is aware that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission has been formed, the Parties are now exploring mechanisms and measures that would support the work of the Commission and ensure that the referendum is conducted in free and fair environment.

In order to ensure confidence in the referendum to be held on 9 January 2011 as per the provisions of the CPA, the Parties to the CPA, having deliberated on the numerous challenges of conducting free, fair and credible referendum, have decided jointly to seek the essential assistance of the United Nations in the process. Specifically, the Parties would like the United Nations, within its mandate in the Sudan, to:

1. Provide the urgently needed funding;
2. Provide technical expertise on the various referendum phases;
3. Help with the enormous logistical needs;
4. Provide the main monitoring mission and any other kinds of assistance the United Nations can render as long as the organization of such a mission and provision of any other such assistance do not entail the pushing of the referendum date beyond 9 January 2011.

Signed for the Government of the Sudan by:
His Excellency
Mr. Idris Abdelgader

Signed for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement by:
His Excellency
Mr. Luka Biong Deng

10-54675